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via San Francisco and United
Kingdom via Canada, at 11
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Dec. 19th.—Europe via Siberia, at 3 p.m.,
per S.S. KUKIANG.
Dec. 21st.—Europe via Siberia, at 3 p.m.,
per S.S. SINKIANG.
Dec. 28th.—Straits, Ceylon, Delagoa Bay,
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MARU.
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Shanghai	11.00 a.m.	Tientsin	3.00 p.m.	Tientsin	8.00 a.m.	Shanghai	11.00 a.m.
Yokohama	1.00 p.m.	Manchuria	5.00 p.m.	Manchuria	8.00 a.m.	Yokohama	1.00 p.m.
Kobe	3.00 p.m.	Shanghai	7.00 p.m.	Shanghai	8.00 a.m.	Kobe	3.00 p.m.

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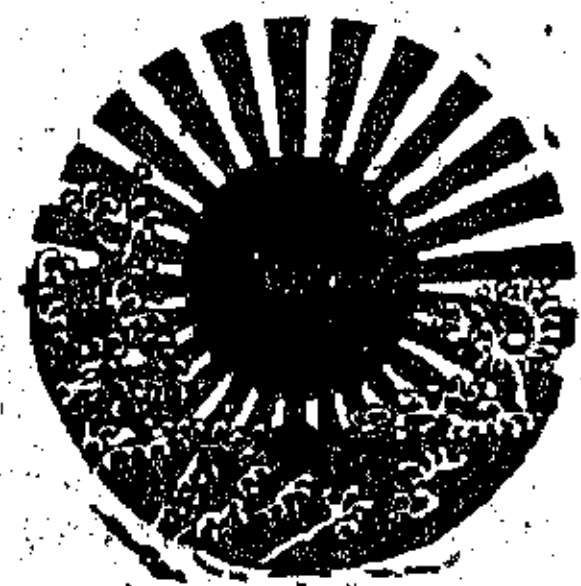
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(1231)

THE ENEMY CARGO CASE
AT SHANGHAI.

CASE FOR THE PLAINTIFF.

In the U.S. District Court for China, sitting at Shanghai, it will be remembered, Leonard Everett, a common carrier, of Shanghai, brought an action against Swayne & Hoyt, Inc., ship charterers, to recover \$4,050 gold damages in consequence of the defendants' refusal to accept cargo offered to them by the plaintiff.

Mr. S. Fessenden's written argument for the defence was published recently, and on the 11th inst. Mr. W. S. Fleming, counsel, filed his answer, in which the following passages occur:—

The facts in the case are for the most part admitted by both parties. The chief issue is one of law, viz., whether American common carriers are justified in refusing service in China to an American shipper because the British authorities or British trade rules forbid their British agents from having business relations of the character with such shipper. Stated otherwise it is—did the defendants commit a breach of duty towards the plaintiff in refusing to receive and carry the cargo offered by him?

The defendants were the charterers of the American ship *Yucatan* and their citizenship as well as that of the plaintiff is American. The tort alleged in the petition as the basis of this action was committed at Shanghai. The only non-American element in the whole case is the fact that the defendants' agents acting for them here were British. By virtue of our Government's extra-territorial jurisdiction in China, this Court has jurisdiction as was already determined in an earlier stage of the case. In view of the citizenship of the parties only American law can be applied.

It is undisputed that the duty of common carriers towards the public is to serve all who wish to employ them without discrimination as to terms or persons and in the order in which applications for service are made.

Had the defendants been represented by American agents there is no doubt that a refusal to serve the plaintiff in the circumstances mentioned in the petition would have amounted to a breach of duty which the defendants owed to the plaintiff as one of the public. Can it be that while within the jurisdiction of American Courts they may evade this responsibility by the appointment of British agents? Let us see to what absurdities this would lead.

The plaintiff in the case is a reputable American citizen of long residence in Shanghai. He has engaged in the shipping business and in pursuit of the same he considered himself a common carrier and recognized his duty to serve all without discrimination. He has accordingly rendered service not only to American shippers but to shippers of many other nationalities as well, including British, German and Austrian. He stated that for performing what he conceived to be his duty under American law and in not discriminating between British shippers and shippers who are subjects of nations with whom Great Britain is at war, he has been placed on the British "Black List" and as a result British subjects are now prohibited from transacting business of this character with him.

Under American law, however, the plaintiff's record is clear, his right to deal with the subjects of any of the warring nations is undisputed and his duty when he himself acts as a common carrier is well defined.

The right to enforce a remedy against a common carrier under American law is not restricted to American citizens, and British or German plaintiffs may come into our courts upon equal terms with Americans. Had space been denied a British shipper when the same was available to the plaintiff could have successfully maintained his action in this Court for the tort committed. The only difference between the British shipper in the circumstances and the American plaintiff here is that the American has been placed on the so-called British "Black List" for causes mentioned above. But our Government does not and we submit, this Court cannot, recognize the British "Black List," and before this Court the plaintiff must stand in as good a position at least as the British shipper.

The defendants' only claim in extenuation of their refusal to serve the plaintiff is that the British Authorities would not permit their British agents to receive the cargo offered by the plaintiff. The British Government has considered it necessary to place certain trade restrictions on British subjects during the war. While all of these restrictions and limitations are, no doubt, necessary when considering the matter from the British viewpoint, to neutrals they are obnoxious, and if applied to Americans under circumstances such as are present in this case a situation might be created which from the standpoint of American public policy is intolerable. Such a situation may very easily arise here in Shanghai should the defendants' excuse be admitted as a defence to this action.

If this restraint can be placed on British agents as to individual American shippers it can as to all. The actions of the British authorities in this respect are matters over which individual American shippers or the whole body of them can have no control, nor are they subject to review except through British sources. Following this out to its logical end it is conceivable that American ships, trading as common carriers, but with British agents in China, might be placed at the service of British shippers, to the

exclusion of Americans and all others. Considered upon grounds of public policy it is not so much what has been done as what might be done, and the possibilities are too dangerous to admit that the excuse offered by the defendants is good in law.

It is repeatedly suggested in the brief for the defendants that there can be no presumption that the defendants, a non-resident American corporation, knew the British law applying to their British agents in China. We cannot admit that when an American corporation comes into this jurisdiction to trade as the defendants have done that they are to be recognized as non-resident. But, aside from questions of this character, we submit that they will be presumed to have known the restrictions on British agents and to have taken the risk. This conclusion is reached by the application of some of the basic principles of the law of agency.

The fundamental maxim in the law of agency is *qui facit per alium facit per se*. The agent stands in the place of his principal and his act is the act of his principal.

After quoting authorities counsel proceeds: The conclusion follows naturally that having acted with a full knowledge of the facts (presumed if not actual) the defendants must be held to have taken the risk and assumed the liability which the law imposes on common carriers who refuse to perform their duty to the public.

Can it then be said that the default of the defendants was due to causes beyond their control? We submit not. We have shown how they will be presumed to have known the British law and the restraint on their agents, and therefore it follows that they must be held to have knowingly employed agents who would not perform on the principals' behalf the duties which the American law compels. The fact that the agents could not perform these duties to the same extent that the principals might have done would have been sufficient justification for the principals in cancelling the agency agreement. This was not done. So again we point out that the defendants must be presumed to have assumed the risk.

In this case the plaintiff stated that he had contracted to ship for others from China to Pacific Coast ports of the United States of America sufficient cargo to fill the American s.s. *Yucatan*, but that after the arrival of the vessel in Shanghai the Asiatic Petroleum Company, a British corporation who had agreed to supply fuel oil to the ship, were restrained by the British authorities from carrying out their contract. As a result the ship had to take on coal for fuel, and the space required for this shut out about six hundred tons of the cargo on hand and under contract. The owners of the cargo or their representatives then threatened to hold the plaintiff liable for the losses sustained, and, as a compromise, he offered to arrange if possible to get the cargo or a part of it away on the s.s. *Yucatan*. The pleadings in this case tell what followed. Plaintiff's agreement with the consignors of the cargo called for Gold \$30 per ton. It is admitted of record that the rate charged by the defendants for shipping similar cargo on the *Yucatan* was Gold \$16.50 per ton. Three hundred tons were offered and the difference is the amount claimed in damages. Failing to ship this on the *Yucatan*, and after making other efforts to find space, the consignors themselves took the matter in hand and through the agency of certain Japanese were able to effect a shipping by Japanese steamers at rates just a little below those at which they had contracted with the plaintiff.

It must not be overlooked that plaintiff was not the owner of the cargo in question. It was left with him for shipment and under special terms, first by the *Yucatan* and then under a supplemental agreement by the *Yucatan*. The difference between his contract rates and the rates at which he could have shipped by the *Yucatan* or *Yucatan* would have been his profits. Failing in his efforts to make the shipment by either of these vessels, the consignors were at liberty to rescind their agreements with the plaintiff and arrange the shipments themselves. This they did. It may be mentioned, however, though we submit that it was not a necessary matter of proof, that aside from trying to ship by the *Yucatan* when the *Yucatan* failed, the plaintiff exhausted every means available to him to get this cargo away.

We therefore submit that the defendants in this action must be held to have committed a breach of duty towards the plaintiff in refusing to receive and ship the cargo offered; that it is not excusable on the grounds alleged in the answer; and that as a result of the breach of duty the plaintiff has been damaged in the sum of Gold \$4,050, for which amount, together with costs, judgment is requested.

MALAKA PINDA RUBBER ESTATES.

At the sixth annual general meeting of the Malaka Pinda Rubber Estates, Ltd., Singapore, Mr. Tan Cheng Lock (Chairman) announced that, after deducting directors' fees and making ample allowance for depreciation, the company earned a total net profit of \$175,442.20, equivalent to a 23 per cent. dividend on its paid-up capital, as against a corresponding \$154,320.30 or 24 per cent. the previous year. This increase was attributable to the fact that the company harvested about 17,300 lbs. more rubber, and realised 3d. or 10 cents per lb. more from the sale of its crops. That profit, in conjunction with the \$30,000 reserved from the previous year's earnings, enabled the company (1) to open up and plant 281 acres of jungle and island land; (2) to construct 6 miles of metalled road leading to the estates; (3) to erect 6 sets of permanent coolie lines and two hangars; (4) to write down the book cost of the property by \$25,000; (5) to reserve and carry forward about \$30,000 in available cash; and (6) to pay a dividend of 30 per cent. for the whole year as against 23 per cent. for the former year.

COMFORT AND HOPE.

A SOLDIER'S MESSAGE FROM THE BATTLE.

God's arms are round the undying Dead.
Who serve Him: Torment seeks in vain
To touch them, though because they bled
People take their passing for a pain.
In Heaven.

The dead soldiers of this war have given mankind the splendour of their example and the abiding memory of their love. But they have done something more. From the trenches and from those vast battlefields where man is crucified anew they have sent back countless messages of comfort and hope. "Is it well with them?" that question which will eternally rise to the lips of those who have loved and lost, is answered by them in anticipation with the assurance of prophecy, "It is well."

This answer rings through that remarkable series of letters from a young French artist-soldier to his mother which has recently been published in France with a preface by M. Chevrillon under the title "Lettres d'un Soldat" (Chapelot, Paris, 250 francs, or 2s.). It has in a peculiar degree the qualities of sincerity and directness. The artist was never destined to paint the great picture of which he dreamed, he vanished in the fearful fighting in the Argonne of April, 1916. But if his grave is known he has left a monument more enduring than brass in this record of a soul that faced death with unflinching courage and calm. No translation can reproduce the rare beauty and no selection do justice to the vast compass of the original, from which we extract some of the thoughts that make the deepest appeal to the heart.

DISCOMFORTS AND TERRORS.
Rain in war-time. It is a punishment of which you can form no idea. For three days and nights we have been able to do nothing but shiver and whimper, and yet we must carry on. To sleep in a trench full of water has no equivalent in Dante, but what of the awakening when you have to watch for the moment to kill or to be killed!

You must never know what man can do to man. For five days my boots have been foul with human brains. I have been treading on throats and stepping in entrails. Two dear friends, one of whom made a charming model for my last portrait, have been killed. It was one of the terrible discoveries of the night. His body lay, white, magnificent in the moon. I lay down close by him. Beauty of things woke within me.

Our condition as infantrymen is rather like that of rabbits which are being shot. We have acquired—or at least the more timid of us have—a perpetual inclination to look for a hole.

ON THE SOLDIER'S STATE.
I recall my satisfaction when I received my military discharge at 27. And now at 33 I am again part of the Army, far from my work, from my interests, from my ambitions, yet never did life bring me such an abundance of noble emotions: never perhaps have I had such freshness of feeling in recording them or such peace of soul.

I think our life must resemble the existence of the monks of old.

We are children.
"A RANSOM FOR MANY."
Tell me that if death strikes the best it is not unjust. The less noble who survive will thus be made better. Let her accept the sacrifice and know that it is not made in vain. You do not know what a lesson the dead teach. I know it.

In the spectacle of the soldier who falls there is a lesson in nobility and immortality which steels us and by which we ought to wish those dear to us to profit. I know because I have seen how the soldier whose leader has fallen is transfigured with heroism.

MOTHERS AND WAR.
Mothers have overwhelming agonies to suffer in this war, but be of good cheer, nothing here is lost.

PLEASURE AS USUAL.
What passes our understanding—and yet, after all, it is natural enough—is that civilians are able to continue their normal existence while we are in torment.

COURAGE AND FAITH.
We have need of courage, or rather we have need of something difficult to obtain, which is neither patience nor excessive confidence, but a certain faith in the order of things—a power to say as each trial befalls us that it is well.

Let us always and in every condition have faith in God. Like you, I feel we can only worship Him in spirit; like you, I feel that we ought to avoid every kind of pride which offends the beliefs of others.

Why am I sacrificed when so many others who are not so clever as I are preserved? And I had something great to do in this world. But as God has not willed that this cup should pass from me, let His will be done.

HIS IDEAL.
The artist must put forth his buds without dreading the frost, and perhaps God will permit me hereafter to realise my ideal.

BLESSED 'S THE PROPHECY.
Our consolation lies above all in the superhumanly clear conviction that the divine and immortal energy which acts in our race, so far from being weakened, is exalted and rendered infinitely more potent by these turmoils. Blessed is he who will hear the hymn of peace, but blessed already is he who divides it in the tumult. And what does it matter if this magnificent vision should be realised when the prophet has gone? He who has foreknown it is coming has gleaned abundance of joy on earth.

THE DEATH OF THE SOUL.
The true death would be to live in a conquered country, for me above all, whose art must then be destroyed. It would be shameful to think for a moment of saving my own life when my race demands my sacrifice.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SHIPPING NOTES.

O. S. K. TO EUROPE.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha is making efforts to extend its operations. It is said that its management is bent upon doubling its tonnage, and is now considering the inauguration of a European service from next year. It seems that the company originally intended to carry out the project on the completion of new steamers ordered, but lest a good opportunity be lost, the management are apparently intending to launch the undertaking earlier and, it is said, have begun investigations regarding the extra tonnage necessary for the new service. It is considered not impossible that the company will announce its inauguration much earlier than is now expected, says the *Japan Chronicle*. At least one liner will be sent once a month via the Cape, but at the same time it is said that the Osaka Shosen Kaisha is also seriously considering the opening of a Mediterranean service, notwithstanding the submarine menace.

SAIGON RICE MARKET.

The Compagnie de Commerce et de Navigation d'Extrême-Orient, of Saigon, report under date 5th December as follows:—Our market is quiet and business is nil. There is a slight decrease in the arrival of paddy from the interior, the natives not being satisfied with the prices actually paid for it.

The total amount of rice exported from the 1st January up to the 28th November is 1,132,326 tons against 1,027,947 tons in 1915.

We quote to-day:—White rice, No. 2 Sifted Japan quality, Hongkong \$3.59 per picul, f.o.b. Saigon, for December shipment.

HONGKONG RESERVES.

ORDERS BY MAJOR WAREMAN, O.C., H.K.V.R.

FIELD OPERATIONS.
The Field Operations which were to take place on Friday, 22nd instant, are postponed.

PARADES.
Thursday, 21st instant:—
"A" and "B" Cos., including Signalling Section and Machine Gun Section, on the road outside the Law Courts, at 4.45 p.m. Kowloon and Taihook Sections at Percival Street, at 5 p.m. Dress: Drill order.
Mounted Section at Jockey Club Stables, at 5 p.m. under instructor Q.M. Sergt. Talbot. Dress: Drill order.

STRENGTH.
No. 234 Pte. F. Austin is permitted to resign.
No. 337 Pte. F. W. White is permitted to resign.
(Sgd.) G. K. H. BRUTTON, Captain, Adjutant, H.K.V.R.

NATURE AND MAN.

Spring has triumphantly arrived. It finds men full of hate, doing utter outrage to creation.

There will always be beauty on earth, and man, for all his mischievousness, will never be able to root it out. I have amassed enough to furnish my whole life. The dead will not hurt the spring. After the horror of the moment of their loss has passed, when you see how large a place is filled by their memory, you feel a kind of relief at the thought of that which really persists (after death). It is in these dismal woods that you understand the vanity of burial and of funeral rites. The soul of these poor brave lads does not need that.

SUFFERING.

If there is one thing absolute in the realm of human sensation it is suffering. Now I understand what life is. It is the instrument that clears the soul's path to the absolute.

BEFORE BATTLE.

Human separations mean little; that which is really ourselves is the ardour of the soul.

We have the order to attack. I don't want to face the risks which that involves without sending you my thoughts in the few moments of quiet that we have left. Everything here combines to impart peace of heart—the beauty of the wood in which we are living, the want of intellectual complications. It is paradoxical, as you say, and yet the best moments of my inner life are now being passed.

It is perhaps a destiny and a privilege, of which our generation should be proud, to witness these horrors; but what a terrible ransom it has to pay. In fine: Eternal faith dominating everything. Faith in an evolution, an order surpassing our human patience.

IN FULL BATTLE.

One word only. We are in the hands of God. Never, never did we so sorely need steadfastness and confidence. Death rages but does not reign. Life is, still, noble.
I have seen all my leaders struck down, and the regiment decimated. I am in the hands of God, and I pray only that He will allow me such a condition of mind and heart as will permit me to enjoy all in His creation that man has not been able to pollute and spoil.

LAST WORDS.

Dear mother, we are again in the care of God. We leave at 2 for the storm. I think of you: I love you: I commend all three of us to Providence. Whatever happens, let us be ready for it. In the full possession of all my faculties, that is my prayer. Hope to the last, but above all steadfastness and love.

We are now at the last waiting-point. I send you my love. Whatever happens, life will have been beautiful.

Thus he passed, in the exquisite words of our own poet Laureate, "nobly, as saints and heroes die, with heart and hand unstained by hatred or wrong," speaking, even in death his glorious message to the world of living men.—H.W.W. in the *Daily Mail*.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

To be in the fashion at the present moment one must be vaccinated. This is due to the prevalence of small-pox, which is assuming somewhat alarming proportions; more especially in the Western district of the Colony. Dumping still takes place—there was another case of this kind at the Police Court on Saturday—and so far it would seem that any precautions taken by the Sanitary Department to guard against this practice have been of little or no avail. The Chinese are, apparently, of the opinion that when a case of the dread disease occurs in their midst it must be secreted, and that if a stranger's eyes are cast upon the victim death is bound to ensue. The Sanitary authorities experience great difficulty in dealing successfully with this superstition, hence the extension of the disease. Up to the date of the last weekly health report 471 cases had been notified, and of this number no fewer than 390 had proved fatal. These figures are almost on a par with those for the epidemic of 1912.

In the hope of coping successfully with the outbreak the Sanitary authorities, I understand, intend to take the poorer class Chinese into their confidence, and a vaccination campaign under the direction of Dr. Woodman (Medical Officer of Health) is at the moment in progress in the affected areas. Hundreds of Chinese have already submitted to the operation, and Europeans would be well-advised to take a similar precaution and also to keep their dogs from roaming into the Chinese slum districts, for a dog is a recognised carrier of disease.

Apud of small-pox, a correspondent writes: "One cannot be surprised at any disease breaking out in the Western districts of Hongkong. The many-side streets and alleyways which link up the main thoroughfares are always in the most filthy condition; they are offensive to the olfactory organ, and the inhabitants of the hovels are in keeping with their environment. Why cannot the Sanitary authorities go and clear out some of these dens of disease—they are nothing less!" As one who has patrolled these areas, I can vouch for my correspondent's accuracy, and sympathise with his suggestion. I believe the Sanitary Department does insist on an annual spring-cleaning, but perhaps my correspondent means something more drastic.

The first degree day at Hongkong University attracted a good deal of interest and passed off very successfully. The unusual course of presenting the ordinary degrees with those conferred, *honoris causa*, was adopted, and this made the proceedings rather protracted, but the object of this innovation was obvious. Although the graduates of other Universities were invited to attend the Congregation in their robes, no robing-room seems to have been provided for them. It would have been a graceful compliment to them if they had been invited to join in the procession, which would have gained by their inclusion. The students comported themselves with the utmost gravity, and, in this respect, presented a marked contrast to undergraduates at Home, by whom "seriousness" is regarded almost as "bad form."

I was particularly pleased to hear the Chancellor mention that the idea of establishing the University was first suggested in an article which appeared in *The China Mail* in the year 1905, for it is very seldom in this Colony that the Press receives any acknowledgment of its services. The article, I believe, was inspired by some of the masters at Queen's College, and it was probably written by my friend, Mr. W. H. Donald, who was, I believe, editor at that time. To-day Mr. Donald occupies a unique position as a journalist in Peking, enjoying in a very exceptional degree the confidence of the Chinese Government. Perhaps at some future Congregation we may see him among the recipients of honours.

Capt. Pollot, M.C., LL.D. (Hongkong) of the French Legation at Peking, who is renowned alike in the arts of peace and war, is giving a lecture on "Central Asia as the meeting place of Eastern and Western Civilizations" at Government House, on Thursday evening. An explorer of note in the interior of China

(Continued at foot of next column.)

"KAIHO MARU" WRECKED.
TERRIBLE EXPERIENCES OF SOME OF THE CREW.

News has been received in the Colony that the s.s. *Kaiho Maru*, on charter by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, has been wrecked on a coral reef near the Pratas, and on Sunday the *Kaijo Maru* left Hongkong in search of the wreck and members of the crew.

Enquiries made go to show that the vessel ran on to the coral reef about November 11th, while on a trip from Japan to Rangoon and Calcutta. The crew stood by the ship for several days, and then the heavy seas which broke over the vessel did such damage and rendered the crew's position so precarious that it was decided to make an endeavour to reach land. By this time five of the ship's boats had been washed away, only one boat remaining. Sixteen of the crew entered this boat, and the remainder, including the Captain, constructed a raft, and all left the wreck on or about November 28th, intending to make for the Pratas. Since then nothing has been heard of the men on board the raft, but the members of the crew who took the boat succeeded in reaching land, and eight of them have now arrived in Hongkong. They reached the Pratas and remained there until the 11th inst., when the stock of provision gave out. Faced with starvation, the marooned crew repaired the much-battered boat, and eight of them set out in an endeavour to reach Hongkong; this was a 150 miles' journey. With only two meals on board, the eight sailors commenced the voyage to Hongkong, but it was a hopeless task from the first. Heavy winds and a heavy sea drove them well out of their course, and two days after setting out the eight seamen were picked up by some fishing boats when about 100 miles off Macao, and were taken to the Portuguese Colony. When found by the fishermen the sailors were in a terrible plight, being almost mad with hunger and thirst, and they were also suffering acutely from the effects of exposure. After remaining in Macao until they had recovered from their experiences, these eight members of the crew came on to Hongkong. When the *Kaiho Maru* was last seen by these sailors, big seas were breaking over her, the hull was stove in, and the hatches had been opened up, she had settled down, and was beyond the aid of salvage. One of the crew was drowned as he was being transferred to the raft.

Nothing had been heard, up to a late hour yesterday, of the fate of the Captain and other members of the crew who left the doomed vessel on a raft, nor of the eight men who were left on the Pratas. The *Kaijo Maru* has gone in search of them, and it is understood that a Japanese cruiser has also gone to the scene of the wreck.

The *Kaijo Maru*, which is owned by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, has been sent to the scene of the wreck under instructions by the Japanese Government.

and an accomplished scholar, Capt. Pollot is eminently well qualified to deal with his subject in an interesting and instructive manner, and the hon. secretary of the local Society of Odd Volumes, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., is to be congratulated upon having secured his services. It is a pity that the Hongkong Odd Volumes are not able to arrange more frequent meetings of this character. I recall many very pleasant and profitable evenings which I spent some twenty years ago with the parent society in Chelmsford, listening to such men as Sir F. Carruthers Gould, the eminent cartoonist of the *Westminster Gazette*; Mr. Edward Clodd, author of "The Childhood of the World," "The Story of Creation," etc.; and numerous lesser lights of the intellectual firmament.

Cordial congratulations to the local A.D.C. upon the brilliant success achieved by the production of "Kismet." They have utterly confounded the croakers who talked of "vaulting ambition" overleaping itself and foretold disaster. It was a pity that the gala night performance finished at such a late hour that it was impossible for the audience to call the successful producer before the curtain to receive the ovation which was his due. Mr. Sinclair already held a very high reputation locally as an *imprésario*, and he has enormously enhanced it by his latest triumph.

RODERICK RANDOM.

SPORT.

HOCKEY.

VOLUNTEER "A" v. ROYAL NAVY.

The following side will play for the Volunteers in their U.S. League match to-day at 4.30 p.m. on the U.S.R.C. Ground—Volunteers in khaki:—E. W. Hamilton, C. B. Johnson, F. W. S. Evans, G. H. Piercy, K. Brayshaw (capt.), F. A. Redmond, R. A. Brand, E. J. R. Mitchell, A. D. Ball, F. R. Smyth and G. Miskin.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS' CHRISTMAS FIXTURES.

During the Christmas season a Hongkong Volunteer Team, drawn from the two league teams will play a couple of matches at the U.S.R.C. The first of these matches will be played on Thursday, the 21st, at 4.30 p.m., against the R.G.A. (three league teams combined); and the second on Thursday, 28th inst., at 4.15 p.m., against the 74th Punjabis. The Volunteers will play in Whites in both these matches and will be represented by:—E. W. Hamilton, C. B. Johnson and F. W. S. Evans, backs; E. J. R. Mitchell, K. Brayshaw (Capt.), and F. A. Redmond (half-backs); R. A. Brand, F. R. Smyth, A. D. Ball, J. V. Braga and B. D. Evans (forwards).

Some good Hockey should be seen in both these encounters, and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance of followers of the game.

FAR EASTERN MEN AND THE WAR.

MR. F. S. C. JONES.

Telegraphic information has been received in Shanghai of the death in action, on the French front, on November 30th, of 2nd-Lieut. F. S. C. Jones, of the 89th Light Trench Mortar Battery, 56th Brigade (B. E. F.) and formerly of the 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers. Mr. Jones was the only son of Mr. Frederick Jones, formerly Trade Commissioner in China for the State of Queensland. He arrived in Shanghai in 1906, and completed his education at the Weihaiwei School. Soon after leaving school he joined the staff of Messrs. Barlow & Co., and after the outbreak of war left with the Shanghai Volunteer Contingent which went by the P. & O. S. *Arctadia* on January 12th, 1915. During his residence in Shanghai (says the *N. C. Daily News*) he was a keen Volunteer and was a corporal in "A" Company. He was also a member of the Shanghai Rowing Club and took part in several races at the annual regatta.

Mr. E. J. Nathan, of the Kailan Mining Administration's Shanghai Staff, who left for home two months ago, has been granted a Commission as 2nd Lieutenant on the General List of the Army, but is at present employed at the Office of the Director General of Military Railways.

GLUTINOUS CHALK SLIME.

EFFECT OF HEAVY RAIN ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

Mr. H. Perry Robinson, writing from British headquarters in France, says:—

We have had more rain here now than we were entitled to expect; more, at all events, than had fallen by this time in either of the last two autumns; and it is not easy to convey what the effect of rain is on this battlefield. You must not reason from what rain does to a compact, well-ordered country like England; nor even must you think of ordinary ploughed fields. The ground here is ploughed to a depth of many feet into huge crater-like shell holes; and when a shell explodes in the earth it throws the stuff up in a heaped rim all round it. As the rain falls on this loose earth dissolves, the crater partially fills with water, and the sides melt away. Most of this country here is underlain with chalk, and perhaps you know the slipperiness of chalk when it is wet.

All the shell-holes hold water to a greater or lesser depth, and the hastily-made trenches, such as are all that exist in these regions, already battered to bits by the guns, have a tendency to disappear, and to become mere chains of pools and puddles, hedged in between low, irregular banks of mud. The terrain in parts becomes a wilderness of alternate water and deep, glutinous chalk slime. To attack over such country in the dark, as we did this morning, is a big undertaking.

The enemy has equally hard conditions, and must submit to more persistent shell, besides having the eternal terror of our aeroplanes. Also, he is on the defensive, and knows it. All these things, perhaps, help to enable our men to stand it better than the Germans. But, what is more important, they are fitter (as General von Arnim puts it, "the English training and physique are in their favour"), and possess a spirit of an infinitely finer temper. They are the better men.

COMING MEDICAL CONFERENCE IN CANTON.
AN INTERESTING GATHERING.

Next month will witness a remarkable Conference of Doctors in Canton, for the China Medical Missionary Association and the National Medical (Chinese) Association have arranged to hold a joint gathering there from January 21st to January 27th. Over two hundred physicians and surgeons from all parts of China will assemble in the capital city of Kwangtung, and doctors from Hongkong, the Straits Settlements, and Federated Malay States have promised to send papers. The Trans-Pacific mail steamer is expected to arrive at Hongkong early to January 20th, conveying the delegates from Shanghai and other northern cities. The Civil Governor of Canton, who attended the University ceremony a few days ago, will give a reception to the delegates in his official residence, and all the leading merchants and gentry have also prepared a warm welcome for the visitors. Many of the leading practitioners in Hongkong have promised to attend the Conference, and amongst papers expected from members of the Faculty in Hongkong are:—"Placenta Previa," by Dr. Gibson; "Diabetes," by Dr. Earle; and "Sub-Epithelial Lymphatic Glands," by Professor Digby.

Other learned discussions will take place on Hospital efficiency, Ascites, Gunshot wounds, the Morphine Evil, a new Plague Serum, the latest cure for Leprosy, Useful Chinese Drugs, Medical Nomenclature, etc.

This will be the first occasion that Canton has been honoured by a large international conference of this nature. The President of the Missionary Association this year is Dr. Venable, of Kiangsu (Kiangsu), while the Chairman of the National Association is Dr. Wu Lien Teh, of Peking. The idea of the holding a joint conference was first mooted last year in Shanghai, as it was evident that the progress of modern medicine in China is dependent upon the close co-operation of Foreign and Chinese practitioners.

CHINESE NEWS.

CHINESE INTERNAL LOAN.

\$24,000,000—6 PER CENT.

The Government will issue a \$24,000,000 6 per cent. Internal Loan for the sixth year of Min Kuo after the proposal has been approved by the National Assembly.

THE AMERICAN LOAN TO CHINA.

According to a report which reaches Peking via Shanghai, the first instalment of the American loan was paid sometime ago. It was agreed that the second instalment should be paid on the 6th inst. Premier Tuan is said to have previously apportioned the amount of \$10,000,000 to be received thus:—\$2,000,000 to the Ministry of Finance to be kept in reserve for the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce to develop industries, \$2,000,000 to the Bank of China, \$5,000,000 to the Bank of Communications. The two latter amounts are to be used in specie payments.

THE BIG LOAN.

The Chinese Government has received a telegram from Mr. Alfred Sze, Minister in Great Britain, reporting that the result of his conference with the Banking Syndicate in London indicates that the question of security is a difficulty. Mr. Sze has been ordered to make further effort, while Dr. Wu Tiao-lang, Minister of Foreign Interference, is to approach the Syndicate in Peking with a view to getting its consent to China's proposal that the surplus revenue derived from the salt system should be pledged as security instead of the land-tax, as demanded by the bankers, for another reorganization loan.

Telegraphic advice from London states that owing to the absence of the representatives for Russia and France, the London Conference of the Syndicate was again postponed. The impression created by the attitude of the Chinese Government is that China is not eager to accept any loan that entails terms of too severe a character.

ART EXHIBITION AT KOMOR AND KOMOR'S.

It is more than twelve months since a collection of good water-colours was last exhibited in Hongkong. At the present moment Mr. M. Kinsen a talented artist of the modern Japanese school, is showing a selection of his paintings, which is calculated to appeal to every lover of art, at Messrs. Komor and Komor's gallery in Des Vaux Road. The pictures are remarkable for softness of tone and perfect atmosphere. One of the best is a Fuji view, costing only \$20. Conspicuous amongst those of a lower price is No. 111 "A Morning View," and No. 113 "Rains," both of which are marked \$6. Already many of the pictures have been sold. The exhibition only remains open for another four days, at the end of which time Mr. Kinsen leaves on a tour round the world.

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SUPERIOR TO ANY GERMAN LAGER BEER EVER BREWED.
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QUARTS—\$20.00 per case

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LADY'S SEMI-EVENING

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EVENING FOOTWEAR

FOR THE XMAS SEASON

NOTE:—ELEGANT BUCKLES TO SUIT ALL STYLES.

Our Store will be Open during the current week until 6 o'clock for the convenience of our customers.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

NATIONAL MISSION.

A Wish has been expressed by many of those who attended the Services and Addresses last week that they would like to subscribe to the expenses of the Mission.
Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. M. HUMPHREYS, 16, Queen's Road, will be glad to receive any further donations from any who have not subscribed and wish to do so. [1464]

LOST.

ON the evening of the 10th December, between Macdonnell Road and the Golf Club, Happy Valley, a BUCKLE BROOCH studded with brilliant stones, will be hand-somely rewarded on producing same.
J. B. GARDINER, Solicitor, 29, Queen's Road Central. [1465]

HONGKONG TRAMWAY COMPANY, LIMITED
(Incorporated in the United Kingdom).

LOST.

TRANSFER RECEIPT No. 1277 issued to Messrs. LOKAN & BASTO for Transfer of 100 Shares in this Company into the name of Mrs. RURA WELLS, having been MISLaid, LOST, or DESTROYED, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that unless the said Receipt is produced at this Office within 30 days from the date hereof, the Certificate for the said Shares will be delivered to the said Mrs. RURA WELLS and the Transfer Receipt will thereafter be held by the Company as null and void.
W. E. ROBERTS, Secretary. [1468]

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE CERTIFICATE No. 4054 for One Share, \$100 paid up, numbered 14113, standing in the Register in the name of Rev. M. M. A. DA SILVA, having been declared LOST, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that unless the said Certificate is produced to the Society on or before the 10th March, 1917, A NEW CERTIFICATE for the said Share will be issued and the old Certificate will thereafter be held by the Society as null and void.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
C. MONTAGUE EDE, General Manager. [1467]

LECTURE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

CAPTAIN FELLIOT has kindly consented to give a LECTURE on "Central Asia as the meeting-point of Eastern and Western Civilizations," on THURSDAY, the 21st Dec., at 5.15 p.m.
All those who are interested are cordially invited.
By kind permission of His Excellency the Governor, the LECTURE will be given in the Ball-Room at Government House.
H. E. POLLOCK, Hon. Secretary. [1459]

HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the demand for Electricity has almost reached the limit of the capacity of the present Generating Plant, and as a result no further applications for new connections can be accepted as from 1st January next, until completion of the New Power Station at North Point. It was fully expected that the North Point Station would have been completed and running before now, but owing to the War work in respect of the new plant has been very considerably delayed.
By Order of the Board,
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents. [1455]

G. R. NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.
Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers.
All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to register themselves under the REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE 1916.
Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.
The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50. [177]

JUST RECEIVED.

A Large and New Consignment of ORIENTAL SATINS, GEORGETT'S CREPE, PERSIAN FLATS and FLOWERED CARPES, INDIAN CARPETS and Brocs.
An inspection is earnestly solicited.
D. CHELLARAM, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central. [1456]

FOR SALE.

ARTISTIC CARDS with CHINESE PICTURES, TOYS and SWEETS, suitable for Xmas Present.

GRACA & CO.,
No. 4, WYNDHAM STREET. [1212]

INTIMATIONS

"KISMET"

A.D.C. Production

on behalf of the

"STAR AND GARTER FUND"

for Soldiers and Sailors totally disabled in the War.

FOURTH, LAST NIGHT--

SATURDAY, DEC. 23RD.

AT 9 P.M. SHARP.

TO-MORROW

MATINEE--WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20TH.

AT 4.30 P.M.

PRICES:

Dress Circle ... \$4.
Stalls ... 3.
Pit ... 1.
Soldiers and Sailors in uniform Half-Price. [1334]

EXHIBITION

BY
M. KINSEN,

WELL-KNOWN LANDSCAPE PAINTER

WATER COLOURS

KOMOR & KOMOR'S

ART GALLERY.

Open on MONDAY, the 18th Dec., For Five Days Only.

Mr. KINSEN is on a tour of the world and gives Hongkong a chance to see and purchase his wonderful paintings at Messrs. KOMOR and KOMOR from 8 A.M. till 5 P.M. FOR FIVE DAYS ONLY! [1463]

SECOND 5% RUSSIAN INTERNAL SHORT TERMED LOAN OF 1916

for Rbls. 3,000,000,000.

The Subscription to the above LOAN will be opened from 14th November to 26th December, 1916.

The price of issue is 95 per cent. The Loan is entirely free of Income Tax and other taxation.

The Loan is redeemable at par on 14th October, 1926, without option for the Russian Government to convert it at an earlier date. Coupons are payable half-yearly on the 14th April and 14th October.

As interest on the above Loan runs from 14th October, the interest accrued on date of subscription must be taken into consideration and is to be added to the price of issue.

The RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK in Hongkong is ready to accept applications for the above-named Loan.

Special favourable rates will be quoted for Russian Exchange.

Payment may also be made in Roubles. Applications will be wired to Petrograd free of telegraphic charges and commission.

40 per cent. only of the cost of the Bonds may be paid on application, the balance to be paid on receipt of the Bonds.

The Bank is also ready to give every facility to subscribers in the shape of advances against the scrips.

G. TISDALL, Manager, RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK. [1359]

KOBE CLUB.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the post of RESIDENT SECRETARY. Such applications, stating salary required, should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary. References necessary. [1452]

WANTED.

A YOUNG ENGINEER with a good mechanical training for a Local Factory. Apply--

"TECHNIC," Office, Care of "Daily Press" Office. [1447]

WANTED.

ENGINEER, Br., abtainer, for Harbour or Shop. Apply in own writing with copy refs., stating age and salary required to--
W. S. BAILEY & Co., Ltd., Kowloon. [1346]

VISITORS TO CANTON

Should Purchase

"FROM HONGKONG TO CANTON

BY THE PEARL RIVER."

BY CAPTAIN C. V. LLOYD.

With Illustrations, Maps and Plans.

PRICE \$1.75

On Sale at:--

Hongkong: "DAILY PRESS" Office.

Messrs. KELLY & WAUGH, Ltd.

Messrs. BREWER & Co.

Canton: Messrs. A. S. WATSON & Co.

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

2 NEW HOUSES now Building in Canton Road. Ready for occupation on 1st February, 1917. For rent and other particulars apply to--
H. M. H. NEMAZER, 1 Des Voeux Road. [1451]

TO LET.

NO. 1, CANTON VILLAS, Kowloon:
A HOUSE in Kowloon Terrace.
Apply--
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LTD. [1324]

TO LET.

NO. 42, ELGIN STREET.
Apply to--
PERCY SMITH, SETH & FLEMING. [1325]

TO LET--AT THE PEAK.

FURNISHED, 3, Stewart Terrace.
Apply--
H. E. POLLOCK, Princes Buildings. [1319]

TO LET.

A HOUSE, at Observatory Villas, Kowloon, with Tennis Court.
Apply--
ARATON V. APOAR & Co., 14, Des Voeux Road Central. [1311]

TO LET.

FLATS in "EWO MESS," No. 3, THE PEAK.
Apply, Property Office, JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd. [1085]

TO LET.

GO DOWN in Duddell Street. Light and airy Offices overlooking Statue Square. Moderate rent.
For rent and other particulars apply to--
"H." Office, "Daily Press" Office. [1340]

TO LET.

From 1st May.
OFFICES, 2nd Floor, St. George's Buildings.
Apply to--
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co. [618]

TO LET.

OFFICES on 1st Floor, No. 3, Queen's Road Central, at present in the occupation of The China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
Apply to--
CHINA FIRE INSURANCE Co., Ltd. [623]

TO LET.

OFFICES in King's and York Buildings. HOUSES in Chilton Gardens, Conduit Road. HOUSES in Broadwood and Moreton Terraces.
No. 21, WONG NEI CHONG ROAD.
Apply to--
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LTD. [132]

TO LET.

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Gordon Terrace and Salisbury Avenue, Kowloon.

TO LET OR FOR SALE.

KOWLOON MARINE LOT 48 with wharf area 59,000 sq. ft., suitable for Coal Storage or erection of Godowns.
Apply to--
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd., Alexandra Buildings. [1371]

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

TO-MORROW

4.30 p.m.--Matinee Performance of "Kismet."

Thursday, 21st Dec.--

5.15 p.m.--Lecture at Government House.

Saturday, 23rd Dec.--

9 p.m.--Extra Performance of "Kismet."

Sat. 23rd, Sun. 24th, and Mon. 25th Dec.--

Bogey Competition at Fanning.

Monday, 25th Dec.--

Christmas Day--Public Holiday.

Tuesday, 26th Dec.--

Boxing Day--Public Holiday.

10 a.m.--Winter "Bisley" at Stonecutter's.

10 a.m.--Mixed Foursome Competition at Fanning.

INTIMATION

WINES AND SPIRITS

ASSORTED CASES FOR XMAS.

CASE NO. 1--\$22.

3 Bots. St. Estephe Claret.
2 Bots. Sherry, Light Dry.
3 Bots. Port, Superior Light Invalid.
2 Bots. Gin.
1 Bot. Superior Old Liqueur Cognac.
1 Bot. Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky "E" Quality.
1 Bot. Dewar's Scotch Whisky.

CASE NO. 2--\$28.

1 Bot. St. Marcoux Champagne.
1 Bot. Burgundy "Beauve."
3 Bots. Claret, St. Estephe.
1 Bot. Sherry, Superior Pale Dry "D" Quality.
1 Bot. Port, Superior Light Invalid.
1 Bot. Superior Old Liqueur Cognac.
1 Bot. Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky "E" Quality.
1 Bot. Dewar's Scotch Whisky.
1 Bot. Gin.
1 Bot. Creme de Menthe.

CASE NO. 3--\$32.

2 Bots. St. Marcoux Champagne.
1 Bot. Sherry, Superior Pale Dry "D" Quality.
2 Bots. Port, Superior Light Invalid.
1 Bot. Very Fine OLD BROWN Brandy "E" Quality.
1 Bot. Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky "E" Quality.
1 Bot. Dewar's Scotch Whisky.
3 Bots. Claret, St. Estephe.
2 Bot. Creme de Menthe.

SPECIAL CASES PUT UP TO ORDER.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

TELEPHONE 616.

[13]

DEATH.

JONES--Killed in action somewhere in France, on November 30th, 2nd-Lieut. FREDERICK S. C. JONES, 86th Light Trench Mortar Battery (late 1st Lancashire Fusiliers), aged 33 years.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 104, Des Voeux Road, C. LONDON OFFICE: 131, Fleet Street, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG 19TH DECEMBER, 1916.

CO-OPERATION IN CHINA.

Although the process of linking up the various provinces and large towns and cities of China is not so rapid as some of us desire, yet each year sees some additional work completed. A few days ago a short line of ten miles in length near Shanghai was officially opened. The importance of the event was not in proportion to the length of the line, for this short loop links up the Northern railway system of China with that of the South. That is a great accomplishment, and it will facilitate and stimulate new trade. The really significant and important feature of this new line, however, is the fact that, after years of relentless opposition, the promoters have completed it. The history of this small piece of railway construction reveals an entire change in the attitude of the wealthy Chinese towards Western methods of communication. The more recent political changes have been abrupt, and often not altogether conducive to the best interests of the State; but the alteration in the outlook of the Chinese officials and merchants towards science has been gradual, and real. Opposition to up-to-date methods of communication have been withdrawn, and the advantages of modern inventions are now appreciated. The difficulties of enterprising foreigners in China, at the present moment, are financial; they are not due to a senseless prejudice against things Western. That is a matter upon which the true friends of China may sincerely congratulate her people.

It seemed, at one time, as though Hangchow and Nanking would never be connected by railway, for the Chinese gentry in the district exerted strong opposition to any project which included Government control. For some years the Central Government had owned the section of

railway which runs from Nanking to Shanghai, while the provincial gentry owned that which connects Shanghai and Hangchow. Only a short gap separated the two lines, and after years of waiting that gap was at last bridged over. At the official opening of the line, the Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. A. C. CLEAR, used some words which should be circulated all over China. He pointed out, first of all, that the short junction affords an excellent example of the benefits of co-operation, for mutual advantages have already been obtained by the harmonious working between the two railways. Then he added: "It is generally understood that, owing to lack of confidence in each other, co-operation in the true sense of the word is not practised between Chinese merchants; yet they hold well together in matters of politics affecting commerce, whilst their individual integrity in business is unquestioned." It is really remarkable how Chinese merchants unite for the purpose of a boycott. It is extremely doubtful if in any other part of the world that powerful political weapon could be exerted with such entire loyalty by all classes, as has been exhibited in China. Yet it is a weapon which depends for its success entirely upon the fact that the individual is willing to sacrifice his own personal interests to the common good.

The real motive power behind the boycott is that of hatred or suspicion, which seems to act as a cement among the Chinese. They will co-operate in their desire to injure someone, or some nation, who is supposed to have injured them or their country; but they will not pull together for their mutual advancement. It is noticeable that the Chinese of Shanghai, Hongkong, and other trade centres have a very great partiality for investments in Companies which are of European origin, but they do not seem very much inclined to form joint-stock companies among themselves, though we have noticed a beginning made in this direction among local Chinese business men.

It is extremely probable that in the next few years we shall witness greater co-operation among the Chinese merchants of the Treaty Ports. In Europe and America the day of the individual merchant seems almost to have passed away. It is now an era of joint-stock companies, wielding capital running into millions of pounds sterling. When the Chinese have learnt that mutual suspicion retards the expansion of business and that cordial co-operation is essential for the development of national and commercial life, we shall witness great changes. Above all else, if the Chinese will only co-operate for the good of their own country, we may expect to see a vast improvement in their political and commercial position among the nations of the world.

A mail for Europe via Siberia closes to-day, at 3 p.m.

During the week-end the police have received reports of the finding of six dead bodies--two by the water police--all of which bore symptoms of small-pox.

Subscriptions to the War Loans Investment Trust for the past month (says *The Malay Mail*) amounted to \$428,910, i.e., just over 250,000. This sum was subscribed by 237 individuals or firms.

The Chinese manager of a shop in Wing Kut Street has reported to the police that on the 16th inst. a younger brother, who came down from Nam Hoi, was standing on a chair on the first floor verandah when he overbalanced and fell into the street below, sustaining such severe injuries that death took place shortly afterwards.

The funeral of the late Mr. Alfred Berry, of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's Shanghai Office, son of Mr. G. F. P. Berry of Stockport, who died on December 11th, took place on December 12th at Bubbling Well Cemetery, Shanghai, the Rev. W. H. Price, Sub-Dean, officiating. There was a large attendance of the deceased's colleagues and friends, while a handsome display of flowers paid a silent tribute to his memory. The late Mr. Berry was well-known in the office, where he had served faithfully and well for two and a half years, and his sudden death at the early age of twenty-seven years has been a great blow to all who knew him. His relatives at home, says the *N.C. Daily News*, may be assured of the sincere sympathy of many residents of Shanghai.

Dr. Wu left for Penang by the *Nankin* and will be back in time for the Medical Conference at Canton.

There was only one case on the calendar at the Hongkong Criminal Sessions yesterday, three Chinese being charged in connection with an armed robbery at Kowloon Old City, when money and property to the value of \$27 was taken from an old woman. Two of the men were found guilty of robbery and receiving and were sentenced by Sir William Rees Davies to five years' hard labour and 14 strokes with the "cat." The other man, who was found guilty of receiving only, was sentenced to five years' hard labour.

St. John's Cathedral was filled with Chinese Christians on Sunday morning, when the Bishop of Victoria held an Ordination in Chinese. The following were ordained Priest:--The Revs. Wong Tang Ng, of Canton; Lei Kau Yan, of Shekai, and Taang Yat Sung, of Yaumati; and the Rev. Lai Kai Cheong, of Tsang Tsing, was ordained deacon. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Pok Ching Shan, Incumbent of St. Stephen's, Hongkong, and the Litany was said by the Rev. Mok Shau Tsang, Incumbent of St. Peter's, Canton. The candidates were presented to the Bishop by the Rev. P. Jenkins, the warden of the Anglican Hostel of the Union Theological College at Canton. The Bishop was attended by his examining chaplains and numerous other clergy, including the Rev. Lin del Tsen, the organising secretary of the Chinese Board of Missions. The Combined choir of St. Stephen's and St. Paul's Chinese Churches led the singing, and the collection was devoted to the fund for building a new Chinese Church at Canton. The Epistle was read by the Rev. Wong Tang Ng, and the Gospel by the Rev. Lai Kai Cheong.

HONGKONG POLICEMAN KILLED.

News has been received by cable that Acting Lance-Sergeant Gardiner, of the Hongkong Police, and who joined the Royal Flying Corps when home on leave, was killed in an aeroplane accident on the 4th instant. It is not known whether Gardiner was at the front at the time of the fatal accident. Upon joining the Flying Corps he was stationed at Norwich.

SMALL-POX IN HONGKONG.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AFFECTED.

The weekly return of the Medical Officer of Health for Hongkong shows that during the week ending December 16th 60 cases of small-pox were reported (four British and the rest Chinese, one being imported) of which number 44 proved fatal.

In the same period there were five cases of diphtheria (one Scottish and the rest Chinese), two of which proved fatal. There were also four cases of enteric fever (one British and the rest Chinese, one being imported) four of which were fatal cases.

SUPREME COURT.

ABSENT JUROR.

Mr. S. L. Hidden (of Messrs. Whiteaway & Laidlaw) was not present at the Supreme Court yesterday when he was called to serve on a jury. When he did arrive Mr. Hidden apologised and said that he had forgotten all about the matter.

The Chief Justice said such a happening was a very serious matter, for other people had to make sacrifices to answer for their names. Therefore, he could not accept the juror's excuse, and would fine him \$5.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

SMALL-POX.

Two Chinese were charged before Mr. Melbourne with failing to notify or report a case of small-pox at Hung Hom. Each of the defendants was fined \$25.

AN OLD HAND.

Six months' hard labour was the sentence passed upon a Chinese who broke open a show-case at 594, Queen's Road Central, and stole six silver-mounted walking sticks. Ten previous convictions were proved, including a term of four years' hard labour.

A BURGLAR.

A remand was granted in the case in which a Chinese was charged with breaking into 28, Wong-nai-cheng village early on Sunday morning. Inspector Sim said that four other men were concerned in the affair but they had not yet been caught. The defendant was caught while attempting to escape.

THE WAR.

BRITAIN'S PEACE TERMS.

SACRED OBLIGATIONS TO ALLIES.

SIGNIFICANCE OF VERDUN.

THE FOOD PROBLEM.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITAIN'S PEACE TERMS.

OUR SACRED OBLIGATIONS TO ALLIES.

LONDON, December 18th.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, in the course of a speech, said that the peace-loving British would welcome peace, but they remembered that the offer emanated from a Power which had infamously proposed, in 1914, that we should betray France and acquiesce in the violation of Belgium. Therefore, the proposals must be scrutinised in the light of our sacred obligations to the Allies, and must be tested by the principles for which we were fighting. Indemnities for the past would be insufficient without guarantees for the future, and the latter would be insufficient without ample reparation being made to Belgium, Serbia and Poland. If the proposals were merely a pretence to secure an armistice, we must set our faces steel-like and confront all hardships and dangers in order to secure a righteous peace.

ITALY AND PEACE.

ALLIES MUST ACT IN UNISON.

LONDON, December 18th.

Communications with Italy have been interrupted by snowstorms. Belated messages from Rome show that the Italian press repudiates the idea of peace negotiations at present. Signor Sonnino, speaking in the Chamber on Wednesday, said he had received the German peace Note, which was most vague. Therefore, he deprecated any discussion, as it was most important that the Allies should act in unison.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S PROPOSALS.

LONDON, December 18th.

Reynolds' Newspaper states that in the event of anything like a concerted effort to oppose the drastic proposals which Mr. Lloyd George, the Premier, will submit to Parliament, the inner circle of the Premier's supporters make no secret of the possibility of an election.

BRITAIN'S FOOD PROBLEM.

LONDON, December 18th.

It is expected that Lord Davenport, Food Controller, will shortly enforce a meatless day, probably Thursday, (including private houses), sugar tickets, and the compulsory use of maize, oats, or barley in addition to wheat, in bread-making.

ITALY'S FINANCES.

LOOKING TO BRITAIN.

ROME, December 18th.

The Finance Minister, referring to the Budget, announced that last year there was a deficit of 168,000,000 lire. He foresaw no great difficulties in providing, in the forthcoming period, for internal expenses, while he was confident that they would cordially be given the support of the British Treasury to overcome their difficulties regarding war payments abroad.

PEACE IN PORTUGAL.

MADRID, December 18th.

Order is completely restored in Portugal, from which place trains are arriving normally.

RE-ELECTION BILL.

LONDON, December 18th.

The House of Commons has passed the Re-election Bill.

[The Re-election Bill dispenses with the necessity for the re-election of Ministers.]

EARLIER CABLES.

TWO NEW PEERS.

LONDON, December 17th.

The Right Hon. O. B. Stuart-Wortley K.C., M. P. (C.), and Sir William Maxwell Aitken, M.P., (U.), have been raised to the Peerage. Their probable successors in the Commons will be the new Ministers, Sir Alfred Stanley (President of the Board of Trade), and Professor H. A. L. Fisher (President of the Board of Education).

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

SIGNIFICANCE OF VERDUN VICTORY.

WAR RESTORED TO ITS TRUE PERSPECTIVE.

LONDON, December 18th.

A significant feature of the Verdun fighting was the apparent absence of German Reserves, and accounts agree that the dispirited Germans are beaten before they start. They fought only with artillery, and that wildly, and the trenches were carried in a very easy manner. Snow fell heavily on the battlefield on Saturday, the ground was bog-like, and it was impossible to dig trenches.

The heroism displayed in retaining the ground won was more conspicuous than the capture thereof, as the evacuation of the wounded and the bringing up of supplies was most difficult.

The English papers acclaim the victory as proving that at a moment of national crisis France's soldiers had proved her best Ambassadors in restoring the war to its true perspective.

They also point out that the German indecisive success in Roumania has in no wise relieved the threat from the East and West, and conclude by stating that the Allied nations may contemplate the future with quiet minds.

EARLIER CABLES.

GERMAN ADMISSION.

AMSTERDAM, December 17th.

A Berlin communiqué states—Continuing the attack, the French, after hard fighting, possessed Bozonvaux wood.

THE VERDUN VICTORY.

GENERAL NIVELLE'S FAREWELL.

PARIS, December 17th.

General Nivelle, accompanied by General Petain, witnessed the victory crowning his command of the Verdun army. In a farewell speech to his Staff in the evening, General Nivelle said—"To-day's experience is conclusive. Our method has again been tested, and has demonstrated our ascendancy over the enemy. Victory is certain. I assure you thereof, and Germany will learn it to her cost."

ENEMY ACTIVITY CURBED.

PARIS, December 17th.

A communiqué states—The enemy made a minor reconnaissance in Champagne, but this was scattered. There have been only patrol encounters on the right of the Meuse. An enemy attack on the trenches in the St. Mihiel sector failed.

The Balkans.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMAN COMMUNIQUE.

AMSTERDAM, December 17th.

A Berlin communiqué states—General Mackensen has crossed the Buzkul sector on a broad front, and captured a considerable quantity of rolling stock. We pursued the enemy in the Dobrudja to the region of a wooded district northward, where resistance is expected.

RENEWED ENEMY VITALITY.

WHAT FACES THE ALLIES.

[BY PERCIVAL PHILLIPS, SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE "DAILY EXPRESS."]

If the optimists who preach of Germany's imminent collapse could look down on the scarred faces of Picardy from an aeroplane, they would have abundant reason to moderate their prophecies.

The country behind the battle front is a significant object-lesson. Undismayed by the failures and bitter defeats of the past four months, the Germans labour calmly and methodically in strengthening their grip on France, and they are making a supreme effort of preparation which gives little indication of diminished determination.

The recent call to arms of the German people is a sweeping measure which is already having an effect in the field. There was never greater need for the united efforts of the nation behind the British armies—for the continuous, unstinted supply of men and munitions to cope with this final desperate stand of a nation at bay, and to bring it to defeat. It is still a heavy task that confronts us, despite the glorious victories that have helped to make it easier. The enemy smarts under his wounds, but they have goaded him to fresh exertions. Before he goes down in the dust he will fight as he has never fought before, and with that inevitable prospect staring him in the face, he is working as he has never worked before, setting a new stage for the last act of Armageddon.

DECISIVE PHASE.

The Germans ask nothing better than to be let alone during the winter months. They want to reorganize and rebuild, not fight. They know that spring will bring the beginning of the most stupendous attack yet made, and they realize the vital importance of conserving strength and utilizing every resource in preparing for this final, decisive phase of the war. In this the German people and the army appear to be united. The declarations of prisoners suggest that ready response will be made to the recent summons mobilizing every person in the Empire for the prosecution of the struggle with renewed vigour.

For the moment enemy formations facing us show renewed vitality. They have been stimulated to some extent by assurances that the Allies' offensive has failed because the result, geographically, is less than the German General Staff feared. Certain divisions, returned to the line this week for the third time since the battle of the Somme began, have rested sufficiently to begin their fresh order in the mud with pronounced activity. Gaps made in their ranks by British shells have been stopped with new soldiers of good physique and tenacity. The character of these reinforced troops reflects the energy of the German staff, who are now working against time to try to bring the army back to its old level of endurance.

They are mending the rents in the fabric, fitting in new parts of the machine, keying it up, adding improvements and scrapping obsolete mechanism. Theirs must be the credit for the present wholesale marshalling of men, women and children to feed it with fresh material. More large guns have been concentrated here—routine bombardments testify to their presence—and still more guns are being made. The supply of munitions has been increased and accelerated.

GERMAN SURPRISES.

Aeroplanes, of both fighting and scouting types, are being manufactured in large numbers, in the endeavour to recover the supremacy of the air, and the personnel of the aviation corps has been enlarged. You already know how the enhanced value of the machine-gun has been emphasized by General von Armin and his colleagues. German scientists and engineers are labouring on new war machinery—it is quite possible that the British "tank" will have its counter-part in the new armaments of the enemy (it has already appeared in Roumania)—and even this may not be the last word in German skill and ingenuity. The superiority of the British artillery and aircraft in the battle of the Somme has been admitted with frankness, and it must not be taught that the enemy will resign itself to accept this handicap and not struggle to overcome it.

Therefore any stagnation enforced by winter warfare must not be misinterpreted in England. Do not conjure up pleasant pictures of the armies of von Hindenburg and von Bulow lying torporously in the mud, waiting to be broken to bits when the British please. Germany is not sitting with hands folded, helplessly watching her colossal military organization crumbling away under the rain of British guns. She is exerting herself to the last ounce of her strength and the last drop of her blood to prevent such a catastrophe. Even now she does not regard defeat in the field as inevitable. The dream of world-conquest has been dispelled, but her leaders—the leaders who have now put the entire nation under arms—still cherish the belief that their empire can be brought intact out of the furnace by a compromise peace accomplished by German rifles. Their faith hangs on the refreshed and reinforced legions which will go into battle a few months hence—they pray it may not be sooner. To that end they are being equipped and strengthened in invaded territory, which is now being covered with many new intricate and formidable positions of defence.

Every week sees the further extension and improvement of these lines behind the battlefield. Look at the prospect in front of only one narrow sector of the present British line—that between the two straight roads which form the point of a triangle at Bapaume, roughly a length of seven miles. Driven out of the villages south of it—Flers, Gueudecourt, Eaucourt Abbey—the enemy found himself back on a less perfectly organized

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

"KISMET."

The Theatre Royal, Hongkong, was crowded again last night when the local A.D.C. gave the third performance of "Kismet." All those taking part maintained the excellent standard of acting set up in previous productions, and thus the large audience was thoroughly entertained and impressed. Mr. Hay was as good as ever in his brilliant study of Hajj, and he was ably supported by Mrs. Evans, Mr. Findlay Smith, Mrs. Milner Jones, Mr. Leeds and Mr. Northcote. There will be a matinee on Wednesday.

EUROPE AFTER THE WAR.

SIR HARRY JOHNSTON'S MAP.

Sir Harry Johnston, the well-known traveller and African administrator, let the Fabian Society, including George Bernard Shaw, into his plan for Europe after the war. He had, as a matter of fact, drawn his map of Europe, and he distributed copies among his audience. The most interesting features of the map are the complete disappearance of Austria and Turkey. Austria is divided between Germany (which gets Vienna), Hungary and West Slavia (a new State including Bohemia).

Poland becomes a nation once again, with Danzig as its port on the Baltic. This divides a society between Germany and Prussia, to which Sir Harry suggests the Hohenzollerns should be banished. Russia takes European Turkey and the northern half of Asia Minor, thus controlling the Black Sea and both shores of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus. Italy takes the southern half under her wing, and also looks after Albania. Italy naturally gets Tyrol, the Trentino, and Trieste, and the Dalmatian shore of the Adriatic is given to Southern Slavia, a glorified Serbia which will also have an outlet on the Aegean at Bulgaria's expense.

Bulgaria is pared down, and Roumania expands into Transylvania, becoming nearly twice her present size.

Belgium will be given a better strategic eastern frontier at the expense of Germany, and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg will be under Belgian protection.

About Alsace and Lorraine it does not matter so much, because certain parts are German-speaking—and racial affinity should always define boundaries. Armenia becomes a Russian protectorate, Syria goes to France, and Mesopotamia falls under British governance.

VOLUNTEER LOST TO THE ARMY.

The appeal was heard recently in a King's Bench Divisional Court of Ralph Richard Towler, post-office sorter, single, against a conviction by a Highgate magistrate for being a deserter.

It was stated that Mr. Towler went as a Derby volunteer in August last year to enlist. He was passed by the medical officer as fit. When asked to take the oath of atestation he refused, saying he was an atheist, but offered to affirm. The recruiting officer would not accept this and sent him away. In May last he was called up as a conscript.

The court allowed the appeal, with costs against the military, and ordered that the conviction be quashed. The Lord Chief Justice said Towler had been rejected within the meaning of the Act. The military had bungled the case.

and less adequate group of trenches south of Bapaume. Since that last eviction from invaded territory he has utilized them in building a strong position with the usual colonies of dug-outs—shallow at first, but growing deeper and safer as time goes on—plentiful communications and machine-gun emplacements, and well-made fire trenches.

The deep rows of wire have sprung up in front; other entanglements and pitfalls multiply in the night. Unconquerable as yet with the massive, fortress-like works of the original German triple line which has been breached so effectively, the position in which the Germans now shelter between these two high roads, before Le Transloy, Ligny-Thillois, Le Barque, and Warlencourt, is a stout bulwark shielding Bapaume, which naturally becomes stronger as the tenacity of the invader continues. Behind it is another strong position, covering Loupont Wood, Gueville, the Bapaume suburb known as the Faubourg de Péronne, and Bancourt.

PREPARATION.

Go back further still and you will find the entire countryside in the hands of engineers who are sowing machine-guns with a liberal hand, and transforming virgin pastures and hamlets and patches of woodland into foundations for new battlefields. Village cemeteries are now marked out as miniature redoubts; there is not a thoroughfare of military importance that has not received attention. Miniature tram lines and light railways are spreading, for the quicker transmission of troops, and direct confusion in the German lines which followed the first British attacks last July was caused by the lack of adequate communications; supplies of ammunition could not be brought up rapidly—in some cases not at all; and the general extension of these light railways in districts yet unaffected by our advance is proof that the German higher command is trying to avoid being again caught in a similar predicament.

Gangs of woodcutters are at work stripping the timber in many places, cutting it into pattern lengths for underground shelters. Dug-outs of all sizes are thus furnished complete, even to the flooring and staircases for rapidly furnishing the caves now being excavated by other labour battalions. A host of workmen—elderly reservists, prisoners, and impressed civilians—work constantly on the roads, improving the old ones and driving new ones.

Every person who imagines that Germany is already beaten, and that Britain may therefore slacken her efforts, will do well to ponder on these few significant facts.

GHEORGHE LUPU.

A ROUMANIAN PEASANT HERO OF THE WAR.

[BY HAMILTON TYFE, SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF "THE DAILY MAIL" IN ROUMANIA.]

Stories of bravery and devotion are so frequently to be picked up in these days that they have almost lost their value. Here is one, however, which not only brings to light courage and self-sacrifice far above the common, but also illustrates the character of the Roumanian peasant soldier and the relations of a feudal kind which still exist in this Army between officers and their men.

There is a captain in hospital here in Bucharest, wounded in the Dobrudja upon that fatal hill which cost the Roumanians as much and more than Spion Kop cost us. Although it is against custom, his orderly is allowed to wait upon him. This man, a tall, lithe fellow, with good features and deep-set, dark eyes, and a frank, simple child-like expression, has been given some job in the hospital so that he may be near his master. His name is Gheorghe Lupu. In English it would be George Wolf. And this is the story told by the captain, of how George saved his life.

"When we got the order to advance I told him to stay behind, but he begged to be allowed to march with the company. He comes from the same part of the country as I do. His family has worked on our property for generations. 'Oh, captain,' he said, 'I promised madame I would not leave you. I am responsible for your safety to madame.' So he came with us, and we were soon in touch with the enemy."

"At first we drove them back, and we went with a rush up to the top of a bigish plateau where there was never a sign of a Bulgarian. So on we went, until all of a sudden there was a tremendous burst of rifle fire and then a few moments later of shrapnel all round us. I was trying to spot where this fire came from when I felt a blow in my right thigh as if a horse had kicked me. I tried to get up from where I had fallen, but I could scarcely move. I looked about for my bugler and signaller but couldn't see them. The only man alive and near me was Lupu. He was lying stretched out by me, only a yard or so away. He had followed me closely all the time."

"His first idea was to carry me, but as soon as he raised himself up at all he gave the riflemen and the gunners a target, and the fire grew hotter. We were left there in a little salient all of our own. The enemy would not come up the hill because they did not know what force we might have on the other side, but they peppered it steadily. Our chances looked pretty good, but I had very little strength left. I did not lose consciousness, but I was in that state of complete lethargy, that came neither painful nor unpleasant which is caused by loss of blood and which has helped so many poor fellows to pass away quietly, unresistingly, instead of suffering and struggling in vain. How long I stayed like that I don't know, but the first thing I remember is hearing Lupu's voice saying to me, 'Captain, we can't stay here. All right, I said, you must leave me. I can't stir. Try to save yourself.'"

"No, no," he protested. "I promised not to leave you. I must stay with you. What would madame say if I broke my word?"

KEEPING HIS PROMISE.

"The Bulgarians kept on 'watering' the hill. Presently Lupu spoke again. 'Come, captain,' he said, 'you must make an effort. If the Bulgars find us here they will cut off our hands and bulge out our eyes. God knows what tortures they will put us to. Put yourself together, captain. We'll crawl along together. I shan't leave you. Don't be afraid of that.'"

"If he hadn't been so insistent in his patient way I should never have moved. I felt that it was too much of an effort. I didn't care what happened to me. I only wanted to be left alone. I managed to get up enough energy at last to start moving, but it was a fearful struggle. In a few moments I had begun to relapse into inactivity."

Then Lupu changed his tactics. He saw that he must try a new tone. He spoke for the first time with a shade of impatience.

"Come, captain," he said, "you know what you always used to be telling us in the regiment. When things are difficult, you used to say, clench your fists and grit your teeth. This is the time for it. Grit your teeth now. Clench your fists. Then we shall get along."

"Somehow or other Lupu's instinct told him to speak just the words, the only words, I dare say, which were capable of rousing me. It seemed as if he had managed to transfuse some of his healthy, vigorous blood into my veins, that were so nearly dry. I felt now as if I could get away, and I wanted to try. It was a tedious business, crawling, wriggling, rolling over and over, dragging myself along. I thought it would never end. We covered like that three kilometres (more than a mile and a half). We went through brushwood, over stones, through stiff, prickly weeds. Our clothes were in rags. We were covered with dirt. But at last we came to a little ravine where we seemed to be out of range, for we no longer had rifle and shrapnel bullets zipping and rattling round us."

"We took a rest here, then Lupu hoisted me up on to his back. He carried me until we came to a village, where we found some other wounded of our side beating off the attack of some peasants. We joined in, and all of us got away safely. When we turned up at the place where the rest of the regiment was the colonel thought we were ghosts. They had given us up for lost. Then I was sent here and Lupu with me, and he delivered me up to 'madame' as he had promised."

GOOD TALKERS.

Even to Roumanians who know their peasantry well that story appeals with so much force that one of the principal newspapers here gives it the place of honour, and Gheorghe is being made a popular hero of the war. There is some quality in it which distinguishes it from other stories of the kind. One can vividly understand the nature of the good, simple fellow who used his captain's exhortation

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

REPRISALS WIN.

FRENCH WAY WITH PRISONERS.

A grim record of German cruelty to French prisoners is contained in the official report prepared by M. Louis Renault for the French Government, on the treatment of prisoners in France and Germany, which will shortly be published in this country under the title of "Le Régime des Prisonniers de Guerre." It is of special value (says the Daily Mail), as it shows how in instance after instance reprisals by the French Government secured a mitigation of the brutalities practised on the French by the German bully.

German prisoners at the outset were lavishly fed by the French, but when detailed reports of the miserable conditions in the German prison camps arrived, the German Government was officially informed that, if in a fortnight it did not comply with the French demand for better treatment, France would alter her methods.

As the German Government did nothing, the allowance of meat to German prisoners was reduced from 12 ounces to 5, and then to 4 ounces. The bread ration was gradually lowered from 24 ounces to 10 ounces. To ensure identity of treatment, typical menus from the German camps were secured, so that the German prisoners in France might have the same food. As the result of these vigorous measures there was some slight improvement in the feeding of the French in Germany.

Tragic accounts are given of the miseries of the prison camps, where, as even a well-known pro-German has reported, "they all are hungry." "Not the least of our moral tortures," a French witness deposes, "is to hear the shriek of unsatisfied hunger which at almost every moment in the day rings in our ears." The diet he describes thus:

Soup like bill-stickers' paste, with no salt or pepper, in the morning. Watery soup in the evening of tapioca or paste cooked in water. Starchy potatoes, masses of germs and black patches. Herrings which would be excellent if they were not so salt.

Fragments of sausage and blood pudding of dubious freshness. Cheese in its last stage of existence.

The bread ration in many camps is only 53 ounces and is largely made of potato; the meat ration is 2 ounces three times a week. To add to the wretchedness of the prisoners the Germans forbade French societies and associations to send clothing to them. The French Government immediately took reprisals and introduced identical regulations. In May last the Germans gave way and allowed societies to despatch clothing and bread. The German Government stopped the letters of prisoners, lost parcels, and made illegal deductions from postal orders sent to prisoners. The French Government replied "with measures of reciprocity," which, as it states, "very speedily produced their effect." In less than a month the German Government became honest.

Grievous atrocities have been practised on the prisoners. Frenchmen were mixed with Russia who were infected with typhus, and the German commandant of the camp at Cassel met protests with the ferocious remark, "I make war in my own way."

Cases of murder are recounted. Thus at Alengrabow a chasseur was killed by the bayonet because on the day of the Kaiser's visit he did not leave the latrines quickly enough. At Ohdruf a soldier was bayoneted and killed for not having understood an order.

The lot of these who are compelled to do forced labour is, perhaps, hardest. The Red Cross representatives saw in the Erhardt Munition Works a notice to this effect: "All means, even force, will be employed to compel prisoners to labour in the works."

All appeals by prisoners are useless. The Red Cross representatives found that at one factory order was posted stating that the guards had instructions to use their weapons in case the prisoners refused to work. In another case a prisoner was sentenced to be tied to a post for two hours a day for ten days. In another a prisoner who refused to work was compelled to walk without rest for twelve hours and beaten with rifle-butts when he stopped. The payment for this work was from 2½d. to 8d. a day, the last amount only in rare and exceptional cases.

to such good purpose. The Roumanian peasants are like that. "Big children," people say, but children with a remarkable turn for talking. In a hospital a day or two ago, after a famous Roumanian poetess had given the men a little lecture about the war generally and had played the guitar to them, up got a young soldier and made an eloquent ten-minute speech of thanks. I asked a Roumanian acquaintance who was there if this was not unusual. "Oh, no," he said, "they can all talk. It seems to come natural to them."

They have the pretty old-world manners, too, which we associate with the patriarchal age, when society was neatly arranged in grades, each grade recognising what was due to the other and behaving "as such." When the landlady brings home my "washing" she kisses my hand after I have paid her. The servants have special forms of salutation for use when addressing their "betters." In the country the feudal system still flourishes in many districts. The owners of the soil are not far from being the owners of the peasantry as well.

I need scarcely say that all this is passing and soon will be no more. There is no need to regret it. At heart these peasants will remain the same. Their fluent tongues will not become speechless any more than those of the Italians. There will still be Gheorghe Lupu to light up the dark records of bloodshed with gleams of radiant devotion and disregard of fear.

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[BY JACK STAFF.]

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

NATURE AND TREATMENT.

This was our hero (and he was he not?), living but unconscious, is living still and has gone back marining. Of such stuff is the bluejacket made!—*Daily Mail*.

CARDIFF HALL STORMED

He speakers came on to the platform
sub- many efforts were made to add
ritish meeting, but the demonstrators
the doors rendered a hearing im-

continue in our service after the war, and it is not impossible that there may be alterations of salary as corresponding to our interests.

German employers are getting tired of the obligations which they accepted when their *employees* set out for a war, and are now making organized efforts to free themselves. The *Frankfurter Zeitung*, in a vigorous protest against this movement, publishes a letter in which a Rhenish firm, observing that it is adopting a practice approved by many large industrial associations and now becoming general, informs its *employees* in the trenches that their allowances will now cease unless they sign an agreement binding them for three years after the war. The men are to regard the allowances as loans and to pay 5 per cent. interest on them, and they must repay "loans" if they leave the service of the firm within three years after the conclusion of peace. The circular says:—"In consequence of the long duration of the war, the enormous taxation of profits which is to be expected, and the impossibility of foreseeing the state of business after the conclusion of peace, we are compelled to protect our interests. Our interests make it necessary for us to clear up the situation and to take measures of precaution. The measure is based upon the principle of reciprocity. If you continue in our service after the war, it is not impossible that there may be some alterations of salary as correspond with our interests.

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